

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-6 are allowable, and claims 7-9 were objected to for improper format. Claim 7 has been amended. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claim 7, as well as dependent claims 8 and 9, which depend from claim 7.

In addition, claims 1 and 3-9 were amended to eliminate reference numbers in order to avoid restriction of the claims to elements as shown in the drawings. These claims are not intended to be restricted as such. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the claims to eliminate reference numbers to prevent such an interpretation.

II. SPECIFICATION

A new copy of the specification is included in this submission, per the Examiner's request. In addition, the specification has been amended to reflect the Examiner's objections. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections to the specification.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In discussing the specification, claims, abstract, and drawings in this Amendment, it is to be understood that Applicants are in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicants are entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 16, 2007

By: _____



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